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TAGS: YO, US, OVIP (MARKOVIC, DRAGOSLAV)

SUBJECT: VISIT TO THE US BY DRAGOSLAV MARKOVIC AND
YUGOSLAV ASSEMBLY DELEGATION

1. SUMMARY: THE YUGOSLAV ASSEMBLY DELEGATION LED BY
ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT MARKOVIC DEPARTED NEW YORK ON
JULY 23 EVIDENTLY WELL PLEASED WITH ITS WEEK-LONG VISIT
TO THE U.S. THE MEETINGS AND TALKS IN WASHINGTON,
PARTICULARLY THOSE WITH THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT,
FOLLOWED BY BUSINESS DISCUSSIONS AND SIGHTSEEING IN
LOS ANGELES, CHICAGO AND NEW YORK, IMPRESSED THE
YUGOSLAVS WITH THE SERIOUSNESS OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT
AND BUSINESS INTEREST IN CLOSER TIES WITH YUGOSLAVIA,
AND WITH THE DIVERSITY OF AMERICAN SOCIETY. END SUMMARY.

2. THE HIGH POINT OF THE VISIT WAS THE MEETING WITH THE
VICE PRESIDENT JULY 19 DURING WHICH THE PRESIDENT STOPPED
BY FOR A SHORT EXCHANGE AND PICTURES. THIS WAS THE
PENULTIMATE EVENT IN WASHINGTON FOLLOWING TWO BUSY DAYS
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OF TALKS AND SOCIAL EVENTS WITH LEADERS OF THE HOUSE AND
SENATE, THE ACTING SECRETARY AND OTHER SENIOR USG
OFFICIALS. THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT UNDERLINED
THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO GOOD RELATIONS WITH
YUGOSLAVIA AND WELCOMED THE EXPANSION OF TIES WITH THE

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH TO COMPLEMENT THE HIGH-LEVEL VISITS

OF THE PAST YEAR, ESPECIALLY TITO'S STATE VISIT. BEFORE THE PRESIDENT CAME IN, THE VICE PRESIDENT AND MARKOVIC DISCUSSED NONALIGNMENT AND THE MIDDLE EAST, BUT NOT IN MUCH DETAIL.

3. THE OTHER EVENTS OF NOTE IN WASHINGTON INCLUDED THE ARRIVAL, WITH HONOR GUARD AND BAND; THE MEETINGS WITH HOUSE LEADERS INCLUDING SPEAKER O'NEILL, FOLLOWED BY THE SPEAKER'S LUNCHEON AND TWO HOURS OF TALKS (FREQUENTLY INTERRUPTED BY QUORUM CALLS AND VOTES); THE DINNER HOSTED BY THE HOUSE LEADERSHIP (ROSTENKOWSKI) ATTENDED BY ABOUT EIGHT CONGRESSMEN AND SENATOR PELL; THE FOREIGN POLICY DISCUSSION WITH ACTING SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER (STATE 186851); THE LUNCHEON HOSTED BY THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE (BIDEN), WHICH PRODUCED AN IMPRESSIVE TURNOUT OF WELL-KNOWN SENATORS (MCGOVERN, JACKSON, CHURCH, SPARKMAN, CASE, MATHIAS AND OTHERS); MEETINGS WITH TREASURY UNDER SECRETARY SOLOMON, COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS CHIEF SCHULTZE, IBRD PRESIDENT MCNAMARA AND EXIM PRESIDENT MOORE.

4. FOLLOWING THE WHITE HOUSE MEETING, THE DELEGATION LEFT FOR LOS ANGELES. UPON ARRIVAL THEY WENT DIRECTLY TO CITY HALL FOR A SCHEDULED MEETING WITH ACTING MAYOR FERRARO. HOWEVER, THE SECURITY PEOPLE AT CITY HALL INDICATED THAT A TELEPHONED BOMB THREAT HAD BEEN RECEIVED
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A FEW MINUTES EARLIER AND THE CALL ON THE ACTING MAYOR COULD NOT BE MADE. FERRARO NEVERTHELESS CAME DOWN TO THE BUILDING LOBBY AND PRESENTED A KEY TO THE CITY TO PRESIDENT MARKOVIC. (ACCORDING TO U.S. AND LOS ANGELES SECURITY PERSONNEL THE THREAT WAS NOT SPECIFICALLY DIRECTED AGAINST THE YUGOSLAVS. SUCH CALLS, THEY SAID, ARE RECEIVED ABOUT ONCE EVERY TWO WEEKS, SOMETIMES WITH REFERENCE TO A SPECIFIC ISSUE, BUT MORE OFTEN NOT. NEVERTHELESS SECURITY PERSONNEL CONSIDERED IT PRUDENT THAT THE DELEGATION LEAVE THE AREA, DESPITE AMBASSADOR BELOVSKI'S OBJECTIONS.)

5. AT 6 P.M. A NUMBER OF U.S. BUSINESSMEN MET WITH THE YUGOSLAVS. HIGH OFFICIALS OF STARKIST TUNA, MCDONNELL DOUGLAS AIRCRAFT AND THE WHITAKER CORPORATION SPOKE BRIEFLY ABOUT THEIR BUSINESS DEALINGS WITH YUGOSLAVIA AND ZORAN ZAGAR RESPONDED FOR THE YUGOSLAVS. THESE AND OTHER BUSINESSMEN, TOGETHER WITH THE MAYOR OF BEVERLY HILLS, ATTENDED THE BANQUET WHICH FOLLOWED.

6. THE NEXT DAY, JULY 20, GOVERNOR JERRY BROWN MET THE DELEGATION FOR LUNCHEON AND HELD A USEFUL DISCUSSION

ABOUT FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS AND THE PARTICULAR PROBLEMS FOR CALIFORNIA IN THE WAKE OF PROPOSITION 13. THE YUGOSLAVS THEN VISITED THE DOUGLAS COMMERCIAL AIRPLANE DIVISION AT LONG BEACH AND WALKED THROUGH THE PARTIALLY-COMPLETED HULL OF A DC-10 PURCHASED BY JAT FOR DELIVERY LATER THIS YEAR. SIGHTSEEING THE SAME DAY INCLUDED UNIVERSAL STUDIOS IN THE MORNING AND DISNEYLAND IN THE AFTERNOON.

7. ON JULY 21, THE DELEGATION FLEW TO CHICAGO AND WENT DIRECTLY TO A MEETING WITH MIDWESTERN BUSINESSMEN, MOST OF WHOM HAVE DEALT WITH YUGOSLAVIA. IN ADDITION TO THE USUAL EXCHANGE OF WARM WISHES, SOME OF THE US BUSINESSMEN

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RAISED SPECIFIC COMPLAINTS ABOUT WHAT THEY PERCEIVED AS A LACK OF CONSISTENCY IN THE YUGOSLAV APPROACH TO THE US MARKET. THE DISCUSSIONS CONTINUED AT A RECEPTION HOSTED BY AMBASSADOR BELOVSKI. THEN THE YUGOSLAV CONSUL GENERAL HOSTED A DINNER FOR THE DELEGATION AND A FEW PROMINENT AMERICANS OF YUGOSLAV ORIGIN FROM THE CHICAGO AREA. AMONG THE LATTER WAS MARKOVIC'S SISTER-IN-LAW, WHOM HE HAD NOT SEEN FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS. SECURITY IN CHICAGO WAS MORE VISIBLE THAN ELSEWHERE, BUT THERE WERE NO INCIDENTS.

8. AFTER A SHORT TOUR OF CHICAGO AND A VISIT TO THE SEARS TOWER ON JULY 22, THE DELEGATION FLEW TO NEW YORK FOR A PRIVATE VISIT. THE ONLY PROBLEM IN NEW YORK WAS THE STIFLING HEAT--ABOUT 95 DEGREES F (35C) WITH HIGH HUMIDITY BOTH DAYS. NO OFFICIAL ACTIVITIES WERE PLANNED, BUT ON SUNDAY THE GROUP TOURED THE CITY, INCLUDING UN HEADQUARTERS, THE WORLD TRADE CENTER, MID-TOWN AND HARLEM. AFTER A LATE LUNCH AT THEIR UN MISSION, THEY LEFT FOR THE AIRPORT AND DEPARTED ON TIME AT 8 P.M. ALL INTERNAL US AIR TRAVEL WAS BY USAF VIP DC-9 AND SURFACE TRAVEL WAS BY POLICE-ESCORTED MOTORCADE. ALL ARRANGEMENTS, WHICH WERE MADE BY THE HIRC STAFF AND THE YUGOSLAVS, WERE ACCOMPLISHED SMOOTHLY AND EFFICIENTLY.

9. IN SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS WITH US ESCORT OFFICERS, MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION COMMENTED ON THEIR FAVORABLE IMPRESSIONS OF THE MEETINGS, THE TALKS AND OTHER ASPECTS OF THE PROGRAM. THEY WERE PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED WITH THE WARM REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT, BY THE HIGH-LEVEL ATTENTION FROM LEADING SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN, BY THE FOREIGN POLICY DISCUSSIONS CHAIRED BY ACTING SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER AND BY THEIR TALKS WITH

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BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES. WHILE THE LOS ANGELES INCIDENT CANNOT BE IGNORED, THE YUGOSLAVS WITH WHOM WE SPOKE PLAYED DOWN ITS SIGNIFICANCE AND PLAYED UP THE POSITIVE

EVENTS OF THE TRIP. SEVERAL MEMBERS AND STAFFERS NOTED THAT THIS WAS MARKOVIC'S FIRST VISIT TO THE WEST AND THE FIRST TO THE US BY OVER HALF OF THE DELEGATION. THEY STRESSED THE POSITIVE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE VISIT ON THESE INFLUENTIAL YUGOSLAV LEADERS.

10. WHILE WE DID NOT SPEAK IN DEPTH WITH MARKOVIC, HE SEEMED GENUINELY PLEASED. HIS MANNER, AFTER A SLIGHTLY STILTED BEGINNING, WAS WARM AND RESPONSIVE TO THE CORDIALITY OF THE AMERICANS HE ENCOUNTERED. HE EXPRESSED THIS THOUGHT AT THE CONGRESS-HOSTED DINNER, SAYING THAT HE AND OTHERS CAME WITH CERTAIN PREDISPOSITIONS (IMPLICITLY NEGATIVE) WHICH HAD ALREADY BEEN DISPELLED. THEY WERE PLEASANTLY SURPRISED, HE SAID, AND THIS FEELING EVIDENTLY GREW STRONGER AS THE WEEK PROGRESSED. MARKOVIC HIMSELF SEEMED RELAXED AND CONFIDENT, AT EASE WITH HIS YUGOSLAV COLLEAGUES AND WITH HIS AMERICAN COUNTERPARTS. IN HIS PUBLIC AND PRIVATE REMARKS HE UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE YUGOSLAVIA ATTACHES TO GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE US, EXTOLLED THE TITO VISIT AND THE RESULTING JOINT STATEMENT AND LOOKED FORWARD TO THE FURTHER BROADENING OF EXCHANGES. ALTHOUGH MARKOVIC AND ABOUT HALF OF THE DELEGATION SPOKE LITTLE OR NO ENGLISH, THEY MADE LIBERAL USE OF TWO EXCELLENT INTERPRETERS AND, WHERE NECESSARY, FOUND ANOTHER LANGUAGE TO EASE CONVERSATION.

11. THE ONLY PROBLEM WE SEE FROM THIS SUCCESS IS THAT, LIKE THE TITO VISIT IN MARCH, IT MAY RAISE YUGOSLAV EXPECTATIONS WHICH WE WILL FIND DIFFICULT TO FULFILL IN THE FUTURE. CHRISTOPHER

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